Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1993 and ending on the 30th April, 1994 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

2. I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the Members of Rajya Sabha so nominated, may be communicated to this House."

III

"I am direted to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Wednesday, the 17th March, 1993, adopted the following motion:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate seven members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1993 and ending on the 30th April, 1994 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

2. I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the name of the members of Rajya Sabha so nominated, may be communicated to this House."

(IV)

"I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Wednesday, the 17th March, 1993, adopted the following motion:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate ten members from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Commitee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the term beginning on the 1st May, 1993 and ending on the 30th April, 1994 and do communicate to this House the names of the members so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

2. I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha so nominated, may be communicated to this House."

HALF-AN HOUR DISCUSSION ON POINTS ARISING OUT OF ANSWER GIVEN ON 3RD MARCH, 1993, TO UNSTARRED QUESTION 1043 REGARDING POPULATION EXPLOSION IN THE COUNTRY

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, I am afraid that we are living in the times of hypocrisy. Every speaker has spoken well that the population explosion is more dangerous than the nuclear bomb, yet the Minister is backed by empty benches. Even in the Opposition benches there are hardly a handful people and if anybody raises a point of quorum, it will be null and void.

Sir, as you know, in most of the parts of the rural areas folklores are performed at one time or the other of the whole year. Once upon a time, one folklore performer was giving his performance. The audience were evaporating and only one among the audience was left behind. At the end, the performer thanked him and said: "You sat all through to listen to me," and right came the reply, "I am here to collect the mat; then at belongs to me. That is why I sat all through." That is how you are serious about this subject. Every day when I am coming from my place, Meena Bagh, and crossing the Nirman Bhavan, I see the population clock hanging at the Nirman Bhavan.

Even Mr. Bhandare is not serious about his own Half-an-Hour Discussion.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: He is not listening to you.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: The growth in the population, according to the clock at the Nirman Bhavan, is 49 per minute. Since we started this Discussion till this time, as per the clock at the Nirman Bhavan, the population of our country went up by 5,880. Every day the population growth in this country is more than 46,000.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Fifty-seven thousand.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: No, it is not correct. It is 46,000 according to the clock.

Sir, it is both a social and economic problem. So, to overcome this problem, first of all, what I believe is that the infant mortality rate should come down. The infant mortality rate in our country is as high as 80 per thousand. So, unless people are ensured of the living of their children, there is no point in stressing again and again the importance of family planning. So, unless proper avenues are there for the healthy growth of the children, the population programmes will not give the desired results.

It is also a fact that at least in the rural areas the children are prone or exposed to various vagaries of infection and other problems like diarrhoea, and children are dying. Even in a place like Andhra Pradesh the total deaths during this year due to gastro-enteritis are more than a thousand. The same may be the picture in other parts of the rural India. At least half of the villages are not covered with protected water. So, the children are exposed to all these things. Unless they are protected from all these problems, I am very much afraid that precious little could be achieved from this.

The second aspect I would like to add is that as far the organised sector is concerned, whether one is working in the Government or aided institutes, one is given incentive for adopting family planning. They are offered an increment of two. Some States are offering three increments. Three increments amount to more than Rs. 100 per month or a little more. So, if we calculate the entire amount, at the end of his service it costs more than Rs. 1 lakh to the Government. But, at the same time, the Government is offering only two cooking utensils of Rs. 70 or a dhoti in the unorganised sector. So, if an agricultural worker undergoes a family-planning operation, the Government satisfies him only by giving him two utensils or a pair of clothes or Rs 70 whichever is less, whereas for a person in the organised sector or in the Government, whether he is a gazetted officer or a non-gazetted officer, the incentive is more than Rs. 1 lakh. So, the Government should make it a point. For the educated and highly elite, these incentives do not matter much. Whether the Government offers to them the incentives or not, it makes no difference. So, the stress should be more on the unorganised sector and the lower class of the society. Then only will it be a success.

Sir, it is also a fact that each and every State is coming forward with several maternity benefit schemes. The States are competing on their population. One State Government comes forward offering about two months' holiday or three months' salary to produce more and more children. So, there is a dichotomy. The Central Government says, "Adopt family planning." The State Governments say, "We are offering more incentives to produce more children." Unless this dichotomy is removed, I am very much afraid that it will not succeed.

The other aspect I would like to add is that political will is lacking. I am not blaming this Government or that Government, but I am blaming all the Governments, whether at the Centre or in the States. Various Governments headed by various parties ruled this country and various States at several points of time in the recent times. What I want to say is that all the Governments are culprits. They are not serious about the problem. So, I would suggest that it should be a compulsory programme. Disincentives in the form of not issuing ration cards, reduced supply of bank

[Dr. Yeleman Chili Sivaji]

credits and welfare measures should be exercised in the case of those producing more and more children.

The first Chairman of the House, late Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, in one of his discourses had said: "For what of any recreation, procreation is the only recreation for Indians and intercourse is the only indoor game." Thereby they go on producing more and more children. It is a fact. For want of recreation activities also willingly or unwillingly, children are produced. Somebody was mentioning that even in the implementation of the family planning programmes, a lot of corruption has crept in at the ground level. It is also a fact that at several Family Welfare Centres Nirodhs and condoms intended for supply to people observing family planning are converted into balloon and are hoisted for welcome whenever any Minister or VIP visited the place. In several Primary Health Centres and even in several hospitals **Nirodhs** are being used as ballons t welome VIPs. Ministers, Director (Medical Services) etc. So, I hope the Minister will take courage into his hands and see that some effective steps are taken to reduce the population of this country. Unless it is done, I do not think any economic reforms or any preaching of economics by Dr. Manmohan Singh inside or outside the Parliament House are going to yield any results.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY -PLANNING (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, I really admire the Members who have the patience for sitting for such a long time even after the usual hour of the adjournment of this House. I must congratulate them and profusely thank them for taking a keen interest in a subject which is posing a serious problem to the nation.

My friend, Shri Suresh Pachouri, is not here. He did give certain very valuable suggestions. He suggested amendment of the Constitution for implementation of the family planning programme.

Shrimati Kamla Sinha spoke about various religious groups posing a problem to the family planning programme. Sir, I have travelled widely and have visited many Islamic countries. I must say that whether it is must say that whether it is Bangladesh or Indonesia, family planning is intensely adovacated and implemented by the Governments there. It is very intensely practised there, as the society has accepted the programme. From whatever little knowledge I have about the various religions of the world, I do not think any religion to opposed to the small family norm. So, that should not pose any problem in this country also. Shrimati Sinha pleaded for strict enforcement of the law. She also stressed the need of family education. Sir, she also stressed about the adoption of one-child-family norm. She spoke about certain incentives of the programme. I appreciate her suggestions in this regard.

Shri Fernandes is also not here. He also spoke about various religious groups. He said that no religion is opposed to the small-family norm. His approach to the programme was very constructive.

I admire Dr. Reddy, a fine hon. Member of this House. What appealed to me was his anger for non-implementation of the various measures adopted for the small family norm. I appreciate his anger. He pleaded that there should be a compulsion for the small family norm. This sort of a thing had caused tremendous damage to the Family Planning Programme in the recent past. I don't think it is going to help us. The basic need is the willing cooperation and participation of the people. They must be fully convinced. They must be fully convinced about the small family norm. They must feel the compulsion of the small family norm; and the adoption of the small family norm. That will help in the success of this programme. I think the hon. Members of this House will appreciate it.

He talked about the political will. He said that there was no political will on our part to implement it. I appreciate his suggestoin that there should be talks by social leaders, political leaders, civic leaders, Members of Parliament, Legislators to small gatherings of people or big gatherings of people. I think another Member also suggested giving talks to small gathering, whether it is a marriage party or whether it is a social gathering or any other gathering or a political gathering. The family planning programme should be talked very openly and people should be persuaded to adopt the small family norm. If every Member of Parliament, every Legislator in this country consciously does this exercise, when he comes in communication with the people, when he talks to the people of his constituency, perhaps, the success of the programme can be ensured better.

Dr. Reddy also suggested involvement of religious leaders at the Panchayati Raj level. I must say that he was absoultely right. Unless we involve this institution, the success of the programme cannot be ensured. He also spoke about the marriageable age, the budget for family planning programme to which I will come a little later.

Mr. Jadhav did stress the voluntary acceptance of the small family norm. But he did speak of disqualification of MPs. Sir, a Bill is pending in this House which intends to disqualify Members who have more children, prospectively, not retrospectively. In a lighter way I should say we are a traditional society. Our culture and our tradition is thousand-year old. There were days when every married couple was blessed by the elders:

"अष्टपुत्री सौभाग्यवती भव"

Though it is not applicable today but this was the practice. Those were the golden days when our population was very small. There was no problem then of population as it is today.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: We wanted more population at that time.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: But today not it is

"अष्टपुत्रो,"

"इष्टपुत्रो सौभाग्यवती भव"

Mr. Jadhav spoke about incentives and disincentives. He said that this should be enforced even amongst officers for promotion. He said that unless a disincentive scheme is enforced amongst these people, the success of the programme will be minimal. I do not think that this is going to help us. Incentives and disincentives, of course, are to be considered in a proper perspective. There are incentives which have led to corruption in the implementation of the Family Planning programme. And there are disincentives which have discouraged the willing acceptance by the people of the small family norm. So, both these aspects have to be considered and balanced in such a way that ultimately, it helps the small-family norm. Mr. Jadhav, my hon. friend from Maharashtra, spoke about Dr. Ambedkar. He spoke about food and population. He also spoke about the budget which I am going to refer to very shortly. But one thing is that the system, the political system, which is existing in China is not the same as it is in in this country. We are a democracy. We have freedom of expression, freedom of speech: we have all sorts of freedom. We have the fundamental rights and the directive principles. Here, the individual is given such a large area of protective rights under the Constitution. Of course, any law which encroaches upon the privacy and private life of individuals will not be tolerated by the courts. And, we cannot think of accepting the laws or the models of other countries which are not applicable to our social system, our political system, and our approach to life. I do not think that will be applicable to this country.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Then, Sir, what is the other way out of this? That is important.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The other way is that which you have adopted. That is the only other way. Wilting acceptance of the norm, the felt-need of the people by each member of a family. But that requires so many things which I have told you. When there is a need for more income with more hands, how can you teach the small-family norm to such groups of people? There are various dimensions in this regard. Mr. Jadhav spoke about corrpution in the family-planning machinery. I do not deny his allegations. There are some areas where things can be improved, there is scope for improvement. But that should not prevent us from taking constructive actions in regard to the root of corruption and paving the way for the small-family norm.

Mr. Sangh Priya Gautam is here.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: I am always here.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The name is so appealing to me.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Thank you very much.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Lord Gautam left his kingdom for the welfare of humanity. That is ideal. I very much appreciate the anger of Mr. Sangh Priya Gautam. He spoke about Baba Saheb's speech. Dr. Ambedkar's speech was in 1938 before Independence in he Maharashtra Assembly. He was the man who raised an issue in the Maharashtra Assembly about the small-family norm, about the need for family planning. Of course, Dr. Ambedkar was a seer. He was a visionary, not only of the social and political needs but of the objectives of this nation. A reference was made to late Shri Sanjay Gandhi and this active approach in controlling the population. Of course, let us draw inspiration from those people who could see the seriousness of the problem without tackling which we cannot achieve the national objectives.

Sir, Mr. Jichkar, a learned friend of mine, who is not here now, talked about the dangers of the population explosion was a medical problem or a social problem. We do not look at this problem from a narrow angle as to whether it is a medical problem or a social problem. It is a problem encompassing various aspects of development, social and economic, of this country. It encompasses the entire gamut of the life and the living of the people in this country. So we do not look at it from the very narrow angle whether it is a medical problem or a social problem. He wanted to know what lessons we learnt from the experience of other countries. Sir, I would not go into this aspect in detail. But, when we have our own experience, why should we look to the other countries? The experience of this country is that the population is galloping so fast that if we do not check the speed of it, perhaps, we will collapse. That is the experience of this country.

My learned friend, Dr. Jain, has, of coursse, criticised the Government. He thinks that there should not be any politics. He agrees with this. I thank him for that Preaching and practising should be the same. That much only I can say. He spoke about the Population Commission. I will come to that. He spoke at length about the forum of parliamentarians. Who should heard this? It doesn't matter whether an Opposition Member heads this forum or a Member from this side heads it? But the head should be the real head who thinks about this problem. That should be the approach. The participation should not be on a political basis or party-wise. I hope the hon. Member will agree with this.

He also spoke about research in contraceptives. He is right. The medical intervention, the surgical intervention and other interventions which are needed to check the ever increasing rate of growth

in population need research and the Government will denitely consider all that is needed to strengthen the research in a positive way.

He also spoke about the indequate use of mass media. I totally disagree with him. We have to make use of mass media and unfortunately, we have not been able to find that sort of approach where the media also hols this in high priority to project the problems of the nation. I wish the media takes greater interest in this regard; not only the Government media, the mass media also-whether it is in the private sector or the public sector—should take it up. We should help such activities in the media. He spoke about sex education and population education. These are all suggestions made by various Members and whatever is considered to be proper in this regard. will be considered by the Government.

My friend. Dr. Sivaji from Andhra Pradesh, spoke about the empty benches. I should say that the House is full when Sivaji is here. That is how I take it. He spoke about folklore and audiences which is a very popular story spoken in the rural population. He spoke about population increase every day. We don't dispute the figures and I can assure him that every effort is made to reduce infant mortality by the various programmes in this regard. I agree that by simply providing safe drinking water, half of the diseases prevailing in the rural areas can be cut down. It is not the medical approach. The approach should be social and economic to solve he problems with regard to the felt needs of health care of the massea. He also spoke about the incentives and political will. Sir, many hon. Members have spoken about this. So I do not want to react to this. I can only say that the merry use of nirodhs should not lead to their misuse to which Sivaji referred. It is a pointed question. It highlights and pin-points that we are not taking seriously the provision made for population control by providing... (*Interruptions*).

DR. YELAMAN CHILI SIVAJI: Sir, what are the incentives for the unorganised sector? You see for the organised sector, the incentive is to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh for the Government employees, whereas it is less than Rs. 70/- for the agricultural labour. So what is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I told you in the beginning that incentives have created some problems not only by paying the way for corruption in the very system.....but also creating an imbalance in the very approach of incentives provided by the Government. That needs reconsideration and review. As I said earlier, these disincentives should not discourage the people in pursuing their efforts either in the spread of the knowledge of small family norm or in practising the small family norm itself. These incentives or disincentives do deserve reconsideration by the Government but at the outset I am not going to say that I am accepting or rejecting these incentives given by the Government... (*Interruptions*)...

Sir, all the suggestions made by the hon. Members are very constructie suggestions and I won't take much time of the House except one on point regarding the National Development Council. The National Development Council at its meetings held on 23rd and 24th of December, 1991 gave broad approval to the strategies calling for demonstrating strong political will, evolving a national consensus in support of the Population Control Programme, sustained administrative efforts and adopting population stabilisation measures based on a holistic and multi-setors approach. The Report of the Committee is expected to be discussed in the next meeting of the N.D.C.

The Constitution (Seventy-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992 which was introduced in this House last December is pend-

ing consideration. Of course, the House is the master of it. After deliberations, the Bill is to be adopted. Sir, the Bill which seeks to amend the Directive Principles of State Policy states: "To provide that State shall endeavour to promote population control and the small family norm and to include in the Fundamental Duties a duty to promote and adopt the small family norm." It also provides that the person shall be disqualified for being chosen as and for being a Member of either House of Parliament or either House of the Legislature of a State if he has more than two children, of course, prospectively."

Now regarding the Budget, some hon. Member spoke about it. Population control has been accepted as one of the six most important objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan for being given special attention. Therefore, recognising the need for providing adequate funds for the Family Welfare Programme the Planing Commission has allocated Rs. 6,500 rores during the Eighth Five Year Plan against the allocation of R. 3,256 crores for the same during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Similarly, an outlay of Rs. 675 crores, which has been later revised to Rs. 785 crores during 1990-91, was raised during 1991-92 to the level of Rs. 856.62 crores and during 1992-93 to Rs. 1,000 crorers. Now it is revised to Rs. 1,041 crores. Despite the economic crunch the allocation has been further raised to the level of Rs. 1,270 crores during 1993-94. Though about these incentives and disincentives I had spoken, I could not speak in great detail. I need the support of the House, of all the hon. Members, for the success of this programme.

I thank the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion and I thank you also, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at twenty-five minutes past eight of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 18th March, 1993.